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AN
HISTORICAL ACCOUNT
OF THE
VARIOUS (MEETING-HOUSES
OF THE
SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
IN BOSTON.)

BEING THE REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF THE REPRESENTATIVE
MEETING.

PUBLISHED BY DIRECTION OF THE YEARLY MEETING.

BOSTON:
ADDISON C. GETCHELL, PRINTER,
No. 53 WASHINGTON STREET.
1874.

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WILLIAM
ST. J.
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AN HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

OF THE

VARIOUS MEETING-HOUSES OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS,
IN BOSTON, BEING THE REPORT OF A COMMITTEE OF
THE REPRESENTATIVE MEETING.

Published by direction of the Yearly Meeting.

To the Representative Meeting of New England Yearly Meeting.

Your committee appointed in the 8th month last to collect and report the origin and history of Friends' Meeting-houses, property, &c., formerly in Boston, present the following:—

"There was a Quakers' meeting in Boston, May 4, 1664," of which some account is given by George Bishop in "New England Judged," (pp. 434, 437).

Snow's "History of Boston" says, "The first meeting held in Boston was held at Edward Wanton's house, May 4, 1664; and that Edward Wanton was one of the officers under the gallows at the time of Mary Dyer's death in 1660, and was so affected that he became a convert to the Society."

Bowen, in the "Annals of Boston," says, "The Quakers' meeting was held in Brattle street from 1664 to 1708;" which seems to indicate that Edward Wanton's house stood in Brattle street, and the time to include the use of both dwelling-house and meeting-house.

Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, in his late historical work on Boston, p. 228, says, "During the colonial government of Massachusetts the Society of Friends had no regular place of worship, although meetings for religious worship were held as frequently as the defenceless condition of the Society would allow, the earliest account, of which any has been preserved, being on the 4th of May, 1664, about ten months prior to Gov. Endicott's decease. And that on the adoption of the provincial charter, October 7, 1691 (received in Boston May 14, 1692), the Society was placed nearer on an equality with other sects of Christians."

And Bowden speaks of the regular holding of meetings there in 1675 (p. 291).

"In 8th month, 1656, Nicholas Upshall, an aged and feeble man, a church member and an innholder at the corner of Red-Lion lane and the Towne street next the sea," gave offence by expressing his disapprobation of the law, just then passed, which was proclaimed through the streets and before his door by beat of drum, prohibiting any Quaker from coming or being brought into their jurisdiction, on pain of imprisonment and banishment, and the next day was had before the magistrate and fined, imprisoned, and finally banished the colony. He went to Sandwich, where he found a kind shelter for the winter, and then to Rhode Island; "after about five years" he was permitted to return.

In 1st month, 1658, another law was passed, that "no inhabitant *entertain* any person commonly called a Quaker, under the penalty of £5 or whipping." Nicholas Upshall having experienced the inconvenience of such a law, and the need of such accommodation, after his return re-opened his house, and furnished a small room in it for the use of the

Quakers or travelling Friends; and in his will made soon after, viz., August 9, 1666 (he died August 20, 1666), he gave "to such servants of the Lord as are commonly called Quakers, the use of a room and its furniture in his house," describing and bounding it; "also I give to the said Society of Quakers my chest, with all my books and papers therein lying, with a table in the room, &c. And my will is, that if my executrix, or my daughter Cook, shall see meet to set a house on any part of my land for the use of the Quakers, that then it shall be built, twenty-four feet in length and eighteen feet wide, with a chimney, and said bed, bedstead and table shall be for their company."

(See his will, Probate Records, Boston, vol. i., p. 490.)

1686. Edward Shippen, of Boston, was directed by the Yearly Meeting to supply such Friends as shall come to Boston, and Thomas Rodman (then treasurer) to discharge it. (Y. M'g. Records.)

It appears that the project of a meeting-house in Boston was discussed as early as 12th month, 1690. (See Sandwich Quarterly Meeting Records.) "Then agreed that a proposition for buying a place for a meeting-house in Boston be further proposed to the Half-year's Meeting at Sandwich." (It was frequent for the Yearly Meeting at that time to send out its propositions for the Quarterly and Monthly Meetings to discuss, and return their sense and judgment in the case.)

1694, 4th mo., 7th. The Y. M'g. R. says, "Whereas Nicholas Upshall, of Boston, did formerly bequeath unto us, the people of God, in scorn called Quakers, a chamber and furniture in Boston; but not having received the benefit of it, we do now give power and order our friends Edward Shippen

and Edward Wanton to agree and sell the aforesaid privilege and right in the same for such sum of money as they shall agree for; and such discharge in their names shall be a sufficient discharge in the behalf of the rest of the body of Friends called Quakers."

"And Edward Shippen having given Friends the offer of a piece of land on Brattle street,* twenty-four feet by forty-eight feet, (says Y. M'g. R.), twenty-five and one-half by one hundred and eight," says Snow, "to build a meeting-house on, and to bury Friends in, they accepted it; and Edward Shippen was agreed with to build a meeting-house twenty by twenty-four, and the money from Nicholas Upshall's chamber to go towards it. And Friends of this meeting will re-imburse them." This was of brick. (See deed annexed, No. 1.)

1695. The Yearly Meeting had paid £116 towards it, and there were £86 more wanted.

1697. A committee was appointed by the Yearly Meeting to collect further in their several meetings what Friends shall give for Boston meeting-house; viz., for New Port, John Easton and Wm. Allen; Portsmouth, Jacob Mott and Matthew Borden; Jamestown, Ebenezer Slocum; Kingstown, Joseph Hull and William Gardner; Warwick, Benj. Barton; Providence, Daniel Abbott; Swansy, Wm. Chase; Sandwich, Wm. Allen and Daniel Butler; Dartmouth, John Tucker and Jacob Mott Jr.

-(The Yearly Meeting raised its funds by contribution at that time.)

No report from that committee is found, and no record of

* Then Brattle pasture. It stood where the Quincy House now stands, opposite the Brattle-street Church, says Shurtleff.

the payment of balance ; probably they collected enough and paid it.

Wm. Mumford, it appears, now offered land on Leverett's lane, now Congress street, for a new meeting-house ; what induced the change so soon is not apparent.

And the Yearly Meeting appoints John Soames, Wm. Chamberlain, Richard Estes, Edward Wanton and Robert Barker a committee to inspect the ground belonging to Boston meeting-house, in answer to Wm. Mumford. A verbal report, probably.

1700. The Yearly Meeting directs a Monthly Meeting to be kept in Boston on Sixth day before the Yearly Meeting at Lynn, by desire of Salem and Lynn Friends. (This appears to be Salem Monthly Meeting, now to be held a part of the time in Boston ; or soon became such.)

In 1679 a law was made that no meeting-house should be built or made use of for meetings without the consent of the town and license of the county court, or by order of the General Court, on pain of forfeiture of both house and lot, or of being demolished. (See Massachusetts colonial laws.)

And a law was also passed, it would seem, requiring meeting-houses to be registered ; for in 1703 the Yearly Meeting "ordered Friends' meeting-houses to be registered according to law."

1705. Salem Quarterly Meeting set up.

1708. "Salem Quarterly Meeting having offered a draft of a piece of land in Boston for a meeting-house lot and burial-ground, which is approved of and concluded to be purchased, and that a meeting-house thirty by thirty-five feet and twenty feet stud be built, provided leave be obtained to build of wood. And Samuel Collins, Walter Newbury, Jacob Mott

Jr., John Wing and Thomas Richardson are appointed a committee to take the whole work and proceed therein with as much speed as conveniency will admit; and to dispose and make sale of the old meeting-house, and the produce thereof to employ towards building the same; and this meeting does engage to supply with what money shall be wanted to perfect the same."

"It is also agreed that the committee may take or leave that piece of land that lies behind Wm. Mumford's, as they in discretion shall think meet."

1709. "It being proposed at our last Yearly Meeting by the representatives of Salem Quarterly Meeting concerning purchasing a parcel of land in Boston to build a meeting-house on, the Friends that were employed in that service have met with some discouragement in building the house of timber; but it is thought better to build the same of brick, and they have computed the charge of such a brick house to amount to £350; land, £90; making £440. The old meeting-house to be sold for £180, there remains £260 which is to be raised."

"Therefore this Yearly Meeting desires the representatives of each Quarterly Meeting to take the same under their care; to communicate this matter to the several Weekly Meetings, or Preparative Meetings, and to their Monthly Meetings, that collections may be made for the discharge of the same, and make return to Thomas Rodman [who was clerk at that time, and seems to have been treasurer also,] by the middle of Sixth month next, in order that he may communicate what is done to our Friends in Pennsylvania, — having encouragement that they will do something to help bear the

charge, — and there is now expected about four-score pounds from that meeting.”

“Being informed by our friend Joseph Smith, that Friends of Barbadoes have collected some money on purpose to help forward the building of Boston meeting-house, Thomas Rodman and Abram Anthony are desired to write to John Groves, and order the same to be shipped for Rhode Island and consigned to said Thomas Rodman by the first opportunity.” (See letter dated 10 mo., 2, 1710, on Y. M’g. R.)

(Annexed see deed of sale of Brattle-street house and lot No. 2,* and deed of first Congress street land, No. 3.)

1710. Committee report about £200 lacking.

1711. Friends of Philadelphia ordered £100 towards building Boston meeting-house.

“John Wanton and William Wilkinson are appointed to audit Thomas Richardson’s accounts and the charge of building the meeting-house in Boston.”

1711. “An account received from Samuel Collins, Walter Newbury and Thomas Richardson of the charge of building Boston meeting-house; and John Wanton and William Wilkinson, after examination of said accounts, do make report to this meeting that there remains due from said Friends to this meeting the sum of £38. 7s. 8d.; that is to say, when all is received.”

“The effects sent from Friends in Barbadoes towards building Boston meeting-house being ordered into the hands of Abram Anthony, Jr., he has delivered an approved account

* N. B. Shurtleff thinks there were no burials in Brattle-street yard, for John Soames was buried in “Copp’s Hill cemetery,” Nov. 16, 1700, aged 52. And William Mumford likewise was buried there, Nov. 21, 1718, aged 77.

thereof to this meeting; and there remains in his hands the sum of £30."

"This meeting orders John Stanton Jr., and Thomas Leach to receive said sum yet resting in the hands of Samuel Collins and others, and therewith discharge John Stanton's bond for money taken on interest, being £50 for service of said house. And what remains of said sum to rest in the hands of Walter Newbury and Thomas Richardson Jr., for account and service of the Yearly Meeting."

1712. "The proprietary of Boston meeting-house residing now in Samuel Collins and Thomas Richardson, it is ordered that they make conveyance thereof to seven Friends, according to the method approved among Friends; viz., to Richard Estes, Walter Newbury, Joseph Boyce, Robert Buffum, Ebenezer Hawkes, Thomas Farrar and John Rodman."

(1712. A yearly meeting for worship ordered to be held in Boston, probably the one that would have been held in Lynn.)

"John Stanton Jr., having received the money of Thomas Leach and Thomas Richardson sufficient to discharge the bond for money taken up, there still remains in the hands of Thomas Leach the sum of £14. 6s. 9d., as per bill under his hand. And in the hands of Thomas Richardson and Walter Newbury the sum of £11. 17s. 9d., as per account now brought in and approved. Thomas Leach's bill being in the hands of Thomas Rodman."

1713 (p. 78). "Friends of Yarmouth being about to build a new meeting-house there, and want some assistance, this meeting orders that they be supplied with the money lying in the hands of Thomas Richardson and Walter Newbury, either in money or nails, or whatever they may have occasion

for, to be delivered to John Wing, or his order, for said use."

1713 (p. 80). "Whereas Samuel Collins and Thomas Richardson were appointed last Yearly Meeting to get a deed of conveyance for the meeting-house at Boston, and having not performed the same, they are desired to take care that it be done speedily as can, and the conveyance made to proper Friends; and John Wanton is desired to assist the above Friends in getting it effected."

1713 (p. 80). "Friends of Boston having an opportunity to buy a small piece of land adjoining to their meeting-house, desire their Monthly Meeting have liberty to purchase the same with the money remaining in the hands of Walter Newbury, who is desired to render account thereof, and what has been paid him on that account since the last account was made up at the last Yearly Meeting, to the next Yearly Meeting."

1714 (p. 84). An account of the meeting-house rendered. Land to be examined, and to report their thoughts thereon. (See deed of second piece of Congress street land, No. 4.)

1714 (p. 85). "Agreed that there be speedily a deed of the *two* pieces of land in Boston, and Joshua Buffum, Joseph Boyce, Robert Buffum, Matthew Estes and Walter Newbury be inserted as trustees."

"An account of the last piece of land bought of William Mumford examined, and the balance due, £22. 14s. 2d., which this meeting orders paid; viz., Rhode Island, £15; Salem and Sandwich, £5, and the remainder, £2. 14s. 2d., Walter Newbury gives as his proportion."

1716 (p. 93). No deed. "To be done without delay."

1717 (p. 96). No deed. Committee directed to meet at Boston, the 26th instant, for that purpose.

1718 (p. 100). "Those Friends who were concerned in the settlement of the meeting-house in Boston, make report that the same was perfected according to the direction of the last Yearly Meeting." (See deed No. 5.)

In 1760 the meeting-house was burnt in the "great fire" which consumed one hundred and thirty-three dwelling-houses, thirty-six barns, sixty-three stores, sixty-six shops, &c., &c.; estimated loss, £71,000, to relieve which a large sum was contributed by the public. Whether Friends received a share does not appear. But the Yearly Meeting raised money and caused the house to be repaired.

Boundaries settled. (See documents Nos. 6 and 7.)

1761. The former trustees, Samuel Pope, Joshua Buffum and Mathew Estes, being the survivors of the grantees, now conveyed the property to Ebenezer Pope, John Phillips, Joseph Southwick and others. (See deed No. 8.)

1774. Salem Monthly Meeting held at Boston in the 11th month. The record speaks of its being a time of difficulty in Boston on account of the present calamity, (the war), and the same likely to attend them through the winter, Boston Monthly Meeting is dropped.

1775. There were but eleven Friends in Boston. (See Snow's History.)

1792. Boston Preparative Meeting discontinued, and its members annexed to Lynn. (See Salem Record.)

1802. Ebenezer Pope and John Phillips, being the only survivors of the last-named grantees, conveyed the property, without the assent of the Yearly Meeting, to Edmund Needham, Daniel Needham and others. (See deed No. 9.)

1808. Boston meeting for worship discontinued.

1815. Samuel Rodman and Wm. Rotch Jr., were appointed by the Yearly Meeting to receive the deed of trust of Boston meeting-house for this meeting. But they declined giving it.

(Now see Record of Meeting for Sufferings.)

1822, Fifth mo. Committee appointed to get conveyance from the present trustees, as well as from the heirs at law of John Phillips, the trustee associated with Ebenezer Pope.

1822, Eighth mo. Committee report no prospect. Legal counsel to be obtained. (See correspondence of heirs of John Phillips; see opinions of J. Pickering and B. Morrill; and of William Prescott.)

1823, Ninth mo. Salem Overseers requested to act in the case.

1824, Second mo. Yearly Meeting petitions Rhode Island for Act of Incorporation. (See Act, p. 238, Yearly Meeting Record.)

1825, Second mo. "Overseers of Salem report they have sold the meeting-house in Boston for \$160, net balance, which is directed to be used in paying expenses of recovering the title to the premises."

1825, Second mo. A committee, viz., — to examine the records of the Yearly Meeting, and other meetings, which have taken cognizance of the subject, purchasing the lot, building the house, &c.; and also to procure a copy of the proceedings of the Supreme Court in the case, as a court of equity or chancery.

1825, Third mo. The committee report the copies are ready, and the case now clear, and that Friends may take possession without delay.

The title had now been vested by the Supreme Court in Salem Overseers, and the heirs of John Phillips had surrendered their title. (See Order of the Supreme Court, No. 11, and deed No. 12.)

1825, Fifth mo. Salem Overseers directed to sell the house.

1825, Eighth mo. A committee appointed, viz., — to sell the land, remove the remains, and to purchase another lot to be applied to the use to which the former was appropriated by the original grantor and donor.

1827, Eighth mo. It being understood that \$3,500 will satisfy Salem Monthly Meeting for their claims, &c., &c., it is recommended that the committee pay it, provided they relinquish all claims to said property, and release the Yearly Meeting from services rendered, and sums expended by them. And the balance to be paid into the Yearly Meeting's Treasury, &c.

1827, Eighth mo. See Salem Record. A communication from the Meeting for Sufferings is received. They accept the offer of \$3,500 for moneys expended in recovering the title to Boston meeting-house lot, and relinquish their claim, "and also convey all the interest this meeting has in said lot agreeable to the wishes of the Meeting for Sufferings."

1828, Second mo. The Yearly Meeting asks Massachusetts for an Act of Incorporation.

1828, Second mo., 28th. New England Yearly Meeting incorporated and allowed to hold property the net income of which shall not exceed \$3,000. (See Act Yearly Meeting Record, p. .)

1828, First mo. The deed of the lot of land to be pur-

chased directed to be taken in the name of the Yearly Meeting in its legal capacity.

William Almy, Thomas Howland, John Osborne, Abram Sherman Jr., and William Jenkins appointed to carry the above into effect.

1829, Tenth mo. See Salem Record, where they acknowledge the receipt by the overseers of the \$3,500, with interest, amounting to \$3,727.50, and direct their overseers to give the treasurer of the Yearly Meeting a receipt in full of all demands and claims that meeting has to said lot.

1829, Eleventh mo. Report of above committee, William Almy and others. Congress street lot sold to Doctor Edward H. Robbins for \$22,000. Milton place lot taken in part pay, \$8,000, and the deed is to "The Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England." It is a warranty, without conditions or limitations, except no building to be erected within ten feet of Milton place; Doctor Robbins' bond taken for \$14,000, with interest from Ninth mo., 1st, 1828, secured by mortgage on Congress street lot.

Bond paid, 10, 1, 1829,		\$14,910 00
Paid Salem Mo. M'g. \$3500, with int.		3,727 50
Paid taxes, \$71, and other expenses,		472 34
Other expenses, say,		25 00
Balance in Providence Bank,		10,685 16

(See deed No. 13, of Congress street lot; see deed No. 14, Yearly Meeting, quitclaim; see deed No. 15, E. H. R. mortgage.

1830, Eighth mo. Contract for building meeting-house in Milton place for \$7,600.

1831, Second mo. Another Act of Incorporation in Rhode Island. Amount of property in Monthly Meetings not to exceed \$25,000, and Preparative Meetings \$5,000.

1831, Fifth mo. Committee report meeting-house finished. Description of it: size sixty by forty; built for \$7,600; expense of fence, &c., \$1,723.14; amount \$9,323.14; which with the lot, \$8,000, makes the whole cost \$17,323.14.

1831, Sixth mo. Care of the meeting-house committed to Salem Monthly Meeting.

1831, Eighth mo. Balance, say \$1,500, to be held by the treasurer of Yearly Meeting, subject to interest.

1832, Sixth mo. Form of a deed to be given from trustees to overseers in each Monthly Meeting in Rhode Island.

1835, Sixth mo. Exp. paid Wm. Bassett, care of house, \$35 75

1837, Fifth mo. Exp. paid Wm. Bassett care of house, 30 70

1838, First mo. Exp. paid Wm. Bassett care of house, 34 65

1841, Second mo. Care of meeting-house again committed to Salem Monthly Meeting.

1843, Fifth mo. Exp. paid A. Goss, care of house, \$45 00

1844, Sixth " " " " 39 58

1845, " " " " " 15 00

1846, " " " " " 26 00

1847, " " " " " 22 25

1849, Fifth " " " " 87 74

1849, Twelfth mo. " " " 75 67

1856, Sixth mo. Attention being called to the condition and situation of Friends meeting-house and lot in Boston, John Osborne and others are appointed to view said house and lot,

and ascertain what our title is, and whence it arises, and make such suggestions in relation thereto as in their judgment may be proper.

1857, Sixth mo., 13th. Committee continued to report at adjournment.

1857, Sixth mo., 16th. Committee, Stephen A. Chase and Samuel Boyce, report.

1857, Eighth mo. Propositions of committee sanctioned by Yearly Meeting; and committee appointed to ascertain what terms could be obtained for house and lot.

And the meeting believing that a more minute and definite account to be spread upon our records of the origin of the funds from which said house and lot were procured would be interesting, we appoint Stephen A. Chase and John Osborne to prepare a statement thereof, and report, with such other information in regard to the origin of said house and lot as may be interesting as a matter of history. (No report found.)

1864, Second mo. Committee appointed in 1857 directed to effect a sale of meeting-house and lot.

1864, Eighth mo. Committee requested to dispose of said property either at public or private sale.

1865, Sixth mo., 10th. Committee report sale of house and lot at public auction, fifth mo., 30th, 1865, for \$10,275.

1865, Eighth mo. Committee report they have had a deed executed, and the balance due has been paid them; and that after defraying expenses there remains in their hands the sum of \$9,954.04.

Amount sales, \$10,275; expenses, \$320.96; net, \$9,954.04. (See deed No. 16.)

1865, Eighth mo. The treasurer of Yearly Meeting, with

assistance of Chas. R. Tucker and others, requested to invest said funds as advisable.

1866, First mo. Committee report having purchased \$10,000 City of Boston scrip, 6 per cent. Our treasurer directed to hold said fund in trust in order that it may be appropriated to the purpose of obtaining another house and lot in that city when it shall be deemed advisable.

He is also requested to settle with Salem Monthly Meeting for moneys advanced in purchasing the scrip.

The income of the fund the treasurer is to appropriate for such purposes as this meeting may hereafter direct.

1866, Sixth mo., 9th. Friends' house and lot in Boston being disposed of, the committee appointed some years since to have the care, &c., are released. And Friends wishing to appoint meetings there, are referred to a committee of Salem Monthly Meeting.

Record of Probate Office, Boston, libro 1, fol. 490.

The ninth day of the Sixth month in the year of our Lord 1666, I, Nicholas Upshall, of Boston, in the Colony of the Massachusetts, in New England, inn-holder, being weak in body but of perfect memory, do make this my last will and testament, as followeth:—

First. I do ordain and make my loving and beloved wife, Dorothy Upshall, to be my whole executrix of all my lands, houses and goods.

Item. I give to my daughter Elizabeth, the wife of William Greenough, the half of my land; viz., that half which is

next to John Farnam's land, from the middle of the wharf to the south side of my entry, and from thence to the midst of the higher end of my garden, upon a straight line with the house upon that land.

Item. I give unto my daughter Susanna, the wife of Joseph Cook, the other half of my wharf and lands upon the south, next to John Sweets, to the end of my garden, with the houses upon the land, provided that my wife shall keep and enjoy the houses and lands during her natural life; and after her decease to be and remain unto my two daughters, as aforesaid, during their natural lives respectively; and after the death of them, or either of them, to their children; and in case there remains no children, then to their husbands.

Item. I give to my granddaughter, Dorothy Greenough, £.

Item. I give to my granddaughter, Elizabeth Greenough, twenty £s.

Item. I give to my grandson, Nicholas Cook, the sum of twenty £s; to be paid to them respectively at the age fourteen years, by my executrix before mentioned.

Item. I do order and give for the use of such servants of the Lord as are commonly called Quakers my new feather bed, bolster and pillows, with a good pair of sheets and a pair of blankets, with the new rugg, and bedstead fitted with rope, matt and curtains, in that little room within my house called the parlor, or in the chamber over that parlor, during the life of my said wife, and after her decease to be then continued by my daughter Cook, within whose line that part of the house falleth.

Item. I give to the said Society of Quakers my chest,

with all my books and papers therein lying, with a small table in the room.

Item. I give my great coat to the children of John Chamberlane to cloathe them.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto sett my hand and seal the 9th day of August, 1666.

Provided and my will is, if my executrix or my daughter Cook shall see meet to set a house on any part of my land for the use of the Quakers, that then it shall be built 24 ft. in length and 18 ft. wide, with a chimney, and said bed, bedstead and table shall be for their company; and it shall stand with my will.

NICHOLAS UPSHALL, and a seal.

Published, signed, sealed and delivered in presence of us,

WM. GREENOUGH,

THO. BILL,

WM. PEASE, Sen.

At a county court held at Boston 31st October, 1666, Tho. Bill and Wm. Pease deposed that, having subscribed their names to this paper, was present on the date of it, and did both see and hear Nicholas Upshall sign, seal and publish this as his last will and testament; and when he so did he was of sound disposing mind to their best knowledge.

EDWARD RAWSON, *Recorder.*

See Probate Records, Boston, vol. 1. p. 490.

DEED No. 1.

Libro 17, folio 69.

February 2, 1694 A.D., and in the 6th year of the reign of our sovereign lord and lady William and Mary, King and

Queen of England, William Mumford; of Boston in the County of Suffolk, Province of Massachusetts bay, stone-cutter, in consideration of 170 pounds current money of New England paid by Walter Clarke, of Newport, Esq.; Edward Shippen, late of Boston, merchant, now of Philadelphia; John Soames, of Boston, cooper; Edward Wanton, of Scituate in the County of Plymouth, shipwright, and William Chamberlaine, of Hull, yeoman, doth convey to them, and the survivors of them, all that certain piece or parcel of land situate, lying and being in Boston aforesaid, in a certain place now or lately called Brattle's pasture, being butted and bounded at the front or easterly end by the street called Brattle street, where it measureth in breadth twenty feet three inches; on the westerly end or rear, by the land of Bozrum Allen, where it measureth in breadth twenty-one foot; on the northerly side by the land of said William Mumford, and on the southerly side by the land of said William Mumford, measuring in length, front to rear, one hundred twenty-eight feet, more or less; with a new brick house or tenement thereon standing, half of the north wall whereof stands upon the said Mumford's land. To have and to hold to the said (names repeated), and the survivor of them and their heirs and assigns forever. To the only sole and proper use for the service and worship of Almighty God by the society or community of people called Quakers, at all and every time and times forever hereafter, when and so often as need shall require; and to and for none other use, right or purpose whatsoever.

The deed was a warranty deed.

Acknowledged February 2, 1694, 1695; recorded June 8, 1695. Ruth Mumford, wife of William, released her dower.

DEED No. 2.

Libro 24, folio 257.

Walter Clark, Edward Shippen, Edward Wanton and William Chamberlain, in consideration of 180 pounds current money of New England paid by Thomas Clarke, of Boston, convey to him the same parcel bought of William Mumford, and since used as a meeting-house for the people called Quakers ; same description, save bounded on the north by Thomas Clarke, and on the south by Christopher Kilby.

In fee, with warranty.

Dated July 27, 1709 ; acknowledged October 8 ; recorded November 30, 1709.

DEED No. 3.

Libro 25, folio 34.

April 28 in the eighth year of Queen Anne A.D. 1709, William Mumford, and Ruth his wife, of Boston, stone-cutter, in consideration of 80 pounds ten shillings current money of New England paid by Samuel Collins, of Lynn, gunsmith, and Thomas Richardson, of Boston, merchant, convey all that piece of pasture land lately purchased of Elisha Cook, Esq., in Boston near Govenor's dock, so called ; bounded easterly by Leverett's lane, leading from King street to the said dock, then measuring in front thirty-five feet ; southerly by said Mumford's part, where it measures in depth one hundred and forty-six feet, more or less ; westerly by land of the widow Phillips, where it measures in the rear forty-two one half

PLAN OF CONGRESS STREET LOT.

60 feet 6 in.

N.B.—The pricked line discovers how many inches Mr. Salter's wall is to the southward of the boundary line; and the shaded part shows the Friends' Meeting-House wall, of 18 inches thick. The northern part of which wall stands from 8 to 10 inches to the southward of the boundary line, and is situated entirely on Friends' land.

160, F.

F	1
17,	4
32,	6
30,	10
30,	0
29,	4
140,	0

F 1
30, 0

18 inch wall.

MEETING-HOUSE.

18 inch wall.

18 inch wall.

F 1
35, 3

6
F 1
17, 4

15
F 1
32, 6

16
F 1
30, 10

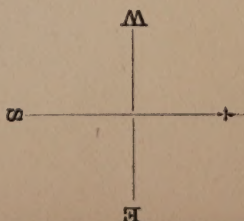
14
10

30 feet.
F 1
30, 0

8
F 1
29, 4

50 feet.

LEVERETT'S LANE.



feet; northerly by John Leverett, Esq., where it measures in depth one hundred and forty feet.

In fee, warranty.

WILLIAM MUMFORD. [SEAL]

RUTH R. MUMFORD. [SEAL]

SUFFOLK. — Acknowledged April 28, 1709,

before PAUL DUDLEY,

Rec. April 14, 1710.

Justice of the Peace.

DEED No. 4.

Libro 27, folio 170.

William Mumford conveys to Thomas Richardson, late of Boston, now of Rhode Island, and Samuel Collins, of Lynn, blacksmith, in consideration of fifty pounds current money of New England, easterly on Leverett's lane, southerly on land now or late of Captain John Wing's heirs, westerly on land formerly of the widow Mrs. Mary Phillips, and northerly on the land belonging to the Quakers' meeting-house, commonly so called; measuring on Leverett's lane fifteen feet, in the rear eighteen feet, in length one hundred and sixty or thereabouts.

In fee, warranty. Dower released.

Dated June 29, 1713.

WILLIAM MUMFORD. [SEAL]

her
RUTH (B) MUMFORD. [SEAL]
mark

SUFFOLK. June 29, 1713. — Acknowledged; recorded July 7, 1713.

DEED No. 5.

Libro 32, folio 1, June 10, 1717.

Samuel Collins, of Lynn in the County of Essex, blacksmith, and Thomas Richardson, of Newport, Rhode Island, merchant, convey to Walter Newbury, of Boston, merchant, Robert Buffum and Samuel Pope, blacksmiths, and Joshua Buffum, husbandman, of Salem, and Matthew Estes, of Scituate, currier, in consideration of two hundred pounds, land in Boston near Governor's dock, bounded easterly by Leverett's lane, westerly by land of the heirs or assigns of widow Phillips, deceased, northerly by land now or late of John Leverett, Esq., in the improvement of Francis ———, southerly by land of the heirs of Captain John Wing, deceased, measuring on the front fifty feet, more or less, and in the rear sixty feet, more or less; together with the brick meeting-house lately erected thereon, commonly called the Quakers' meeting-house. To have and to hold to them and the survivors and survivor of them, and the heirs and assigns of the survivors and survivor of them forever.

The intent and meaning being that there shall be no division or partition made, but the same shall be held and used in common. Wherefore the grantors (by name) covenant, promise and grant severally each with the other not to sue out any writ of division or partition. But the same shall be held by them common for life, and shall go entire and without division to the survivors and survivor of them, and the heirs and assigns of the survivors and survivor forever.

The deed was signed by Samuel Collins and Thomas Richardson only. Acknowledged before Samuel Lynde, J.P., June 25, 1713, and recorded the same day.

No. 6.

Libro 98, folio 114.

Whereas a dispute arose between the proprietors of a piece of land on Leverett's lane in Boston, whereon the Quakers' meeting-house lately stood, and the proprietors of the lands in the rear and on each side thereof, the same lands being made void by fire: in order to settle the bounds of the lands of each proprietor that join on the lands belonging to the said meeting-house, the selectmen of Boston appoint Samuel Grant, Joseph Bradford and John Leach to go upon the premises, hear the parties and settle the bounds, so that each may know the same.

JOSEPH JACKSON,
 THOMAS CUSHING,
 SAMUEL HIVES,
 BENJ. AUSTIN,
 JOHN SCOLLAY,
Selectmen of Boston.

No. 7.

Pursuant to the written appointment, we have viewed and run the line round the land whereon the Quaker meeting-house stands and annexed belonging to the same, and find in the bounds between them and Deacon Sampson Salter, said Salter has set his wall on the land belonging to the Friends, in the rear six inches, in the front next Leverett's lane eight inches, and between front and rear, in some places

fifteen, in some sixteen, fourteen, and in others ten inches ; agreeable to the plan hereto annexed.

SAMUEL GRANT.

JOSEPH BRADFORD.

JOHN LEACH.

No. 8.

Libro 98, folio 115.

September 26, 1761, in the first year of George III., King of Great Britain, Samuel Pope, of Boston, blacksmith, Joshua Buffum, of Salem, husbandman, and Matthew Estes, of Hanover in the County of Plymouth, currier, convey to Ebenezer Pope, tailor, and John Phillips, shipwright, both of Boston ; Joseph Southwick, of Danvers, County of Essex, currier ; Jeremiah Hacker, showman, and Jona. Buffum, tailor, both of Salem, in consideration of £200, certain land in Boston (being the burying-ground of the Friends, called Quakers) bounded on the east on Leverett's lane fifty feet ; southerly on Hyslop, Wing & Palfrey, one hundred and sixty feet ; westerly on land of Cozneau, Fairfield & Mason, there measuring sixty feet six inches ; and northerly on land of Samson Salter, there measuring one hundred and forty feet ; as is more exactly expressed on the plan herewith recorded ; together with the brick meeting-house thereon standing, commonly called the Friends' meeting-house, and all the buildings and fences thereupon. To have and to hold to them and the survivors and survivor of them, and the heirs and assigns of the survivor.

The deed recites that the grantors are the survivors of the grantees in the preceding deed. Is a warranty deed.

Similar provision to preserve the estate entire as in the preceding deed.

The deed was duly acknowledged, and was recorded July 20, 1762.

No. 9.

Libro 204, folio 16.

Ebenezer Pope, tailor, John Phillips, shipwright, both of Boston, the survivors of the grantees (in preceding deed), in consideration of one dollar paid by Edmund Needham, trader, and Daniel Needham, tailor, both of Salem, and Sampson Silsby, shipwright, Joseph Pope, watchmaker, and Griffin Barney, rope-maker, all of Boston, and Enoch Silsby, merchant, of Salem, quitclaim :

Easterly on Congress street, formerly called Leverett's lane, fifty feet ; southerly on land formerly of Hyslop, Wing & Palfrey, one hundred and sixty feet ; westerly on land formerly of Cozneau, Fairfield & Mason, sixty and one-half feet ; northerly on land late of Sampson Salter, one hundred and forty feet ; being the burying-ground of Friends, called Quakers (see plan accompanying preceding deed) ; together with the brick meeting-house thereon, called the Quakers' meeting-house, with the other buildings, fences, &c. To have and to hold to them and the survivors or survivor of them, and the heirs and assigns of the survivors or survivor for the following and upon the following conditions : —

That the grantees shall never cause or suffer partition to be made of said land, nor suffer nor permit said house to be occupied or used for any other purpose than as a place of

meeting for divine worship for the people called Friends, after the way and manner the same has heretofore been used ; nor suffer nor permit the land or yard to be appropriated or used for any other purpose than a burial-ground for said Friends ; but shall devote said house and land to the purposes aforesaid forever. And in case the said Edmund, Daniel, Sampson, Joseph, Griffin or Enoch, the survivors or survivor, or the heirs or assigns of the said survivors or survivor of them, shall suffer or permit the premises or any part of them (except the cellar under the meeting-house, which is to be let and the proceeds applied to keep the house in repair) to be occupied or used for any other purpose than as hereinbefore expressed, then the said land and buildings shall revert to the said Ebenezer Pope and John Phillips, or the survivor of them, and the heirs and assigns of the survivor of them, to be and to remain an estate in fee simple forever.

Dated December 25, 1802.

EBENEZER POPE. [SEAL]

JOHN PHILLIPS. [SEAL]

SUFFOLK, ss. January 1, 1803. — Acknowledged.

Recorded February 2, 1803.

No. 11.

In the Supreme Judicial Court, November 7, 1824, a bill of complaint was entered by Estes Newhall, Daniel Johnson, James Purinton, Charles Chase and Isaac Basset Jr., all of Lynn ; Ichabod Nichols Jr., Stephen Nichols, Solomon Varney and Abijah Chase, all of Salem ; Daniel Osborn, of Dan-

vers, overseers of the Salem Monthly Meeting, being a society embracing all persons of the religious denomination called Quakers who reside within the territorial limits of Boston, Salem and Lynn, and towns in the immediate vicinity, representing that the New England Yearly Meeting had existed one hundred and fifty years; that it was divided into Quarterly Meetings, and each Quarterly into Monthly meetings; that they own large portions of real estate, consisting principally of houses for public worship, and, being unincorporated before 1823, had it held by trustees subject to the control of the Society, and on the number of trustees becoming reduced had conveyance made to new ones; that April 28 1709 and June 29 1713 the Yearly Meeting caused to be purchased of William Mumford, by two deeds, by funds raised by voluntary contribution from their own members for the use of said Society, a lot of land in Boston where the Quakers' meeting-house now stands on Congress street (see description), and, being unable to hold in their own name, had it conveyed by William Mumford to two members of the Society, Samuel Collins and Thomas Richardson. In 1710 the Yearly Meeting caused a meeting-house to be built. June 10 1717 said Richardson and Collins, by direction of said Yearly Meeting, conveyed to Walter Newbury, Robert Buffum, Samuel Pope, Joshua Buffum and Matthew Estes Jr., in fee, as joint tenants, said grantees agreeing never to divide; that till 1760 said meeting-house was used by the Friends residing within the limits of said Yearly Meeting, and especially within said Monthly Meeting, for public worship, and the land adjoining as a burial place for their dead; the cellar being let for their use, and they doing repairs at their expense. That in 1760 said meeting-house

was burnt, and same year said Yearly Meeting caused another meeting-house to be built with funds raised as aforesaid, it being the same now on premises ; that it has been, till within twenty years, used from time to time by said Society for the sole purposes aforesaid ; that September 6, 1761, Samuel Pope, Joshua Buffum and Matthew Estes, being the survivors, conveyed to Ebenezer Pope, John Phillips, Joseph Southwick, Jeremiah Hacker and Jonathan Buffum, to hold in the same manner ; that December 25, 1802, Ebenezer Pope and John Phillips, being the survivors, without the consent of said Society conveyed to Edmund Needham, Daniel Needham, Sampson Silsby, Joseph Pope, Griffin Barney and Enoch Silsby, for a nominal consideration, in which deed said land is acknowledged to be the burying ground of the Friends, called Quakers, and the meeting-house to be also theirs upon the trust and for the uses following ; to wit, that they should permit the house to be used by said Society at all times for a place of meeting for public worship, and the yard as a place of burial, and for no other purposes ; and to let cellar, and to apply rent for repairs.

And complainants show that none of the grantors in said deed is living, and the only survivors of the last grantees are Joseph Pope, Griffin Barney, of New Bedford, and Enoch Silsby, of Boston ; Joseph Pope out of commonwealth, Silsby only one within limits of said Monthly Meeting, and neither Silsby nor Barney now members of said Society of Quakers. For twenty years no established meeting in Boston on account of small number of members ; the building was ruinous ; that the trustees have rendered no account of rents and profits, and though requested to convey have refused so

to do ; that the complainants have been authorized by law of the commonwealth, February 1823, to take and hold estate, real and personal, within territorial limits of said Monthly Meeting heretofore granted by any persons to said Yearly or Monthly Meetings, or to their use ; have given notice of their appointment as overseers of said Monthly Meeting to said Silsby and Barney, and requested them to execute and deliver to the complainants a deed, and render account, but they decline doing so unless upon various conditions which they have no right to require ; therefore they ask that they may make answer and give account ; and ask for further relief and for a deed, and a writ of subpœna directed to Silsby and Barney.

By BENJ. R. NICHOLS,
their Attorney.

An amended bill makes Joseph Pope, recited as being of Philadelphia, a party.

Service was obtained.

A writ of injunction issued against and was served upon Joseph Pope.

"We therefore in consideration of the premises do strictly enjoin and command you, the said Joseph, effectually to perform, fulfil and comply with and execute all and every the matters and things specified in said final judgment and decree."

The decree was to account and answer and give a deed of release, and for a perpetual injunction restraining from any claim to the premises, or making any sale or disposition of the same, or any part thereof.

January 11, 1825.

No. 12.

Libro 294, folio 38.

Enoch Silsby, of Boston, and Griffin Barney, of New Bedford, in consideration of one dollar paid by (same names as plaintiff in the bill of complaint) the overseers of the Salem Monthly Meeting of Friends or Quakers, remise, release, and forever quitclaim : bounded easterly on Congress street, about fifty feet ; southerly on land formerly of John Wing, about one hundred sixty feet ; westerly on land formerly of Mary Phillips, about sixty-six one half feet ; and northerly on land formerly of John Leverett, about one hundred and forty feet ; with the meeting-house thereon standing, to their successors and assigns forever.

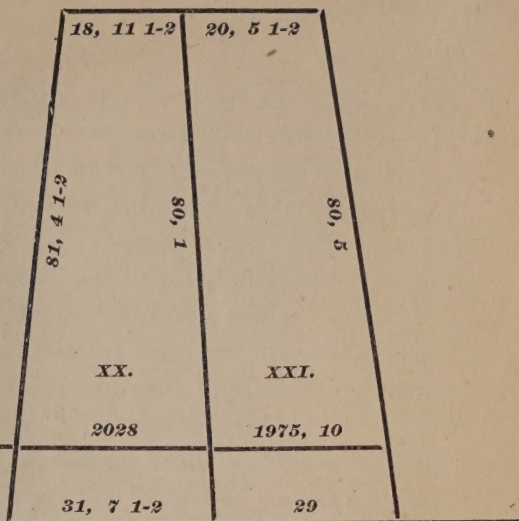
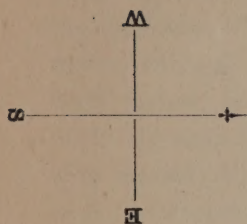
Dated October 16 ; acknowledged by Barney November 6, and by Silsby November 13 ; recorded November 13, 1824.

No. 13.

Libro 331, folio 110.

We, Estes Newhall, Daniel Johnson, James Purinton, Charles Chase and Isaac Bassett Jr., of Lynn ; Abijah Chase, Solomon Varney and Jonathan Nichols, of Salem, and Daniel Osborn, of Danvers, overseers of Salem Monthly Meeting, in consideration of \$22,000 paid by Edward H. Robbins Jr., of Boston, easterly on Congress street about fifty feet, bounds southerly on John Parker *et als.*, one hundred and sixty feet, westerly on Jonathan Mason, Andrew Brimmer *et als.*, sixty-six one half feet, northerly on said Robbins, one hundred forty feet, in fee, covenant that as overseers in

PLAN OF MILTON PLACE LOT.



FEDERAL COURT.

NEW COURT.

FEDERAL STREET.

their corporate capacity they are in possession of all in the following bounds: beginning at the northeasterly corner of the shoe store of John Parker, now occupied by Abel Baker; thence running westerly one hundred and twenty-nine feet eight inches, to land of Andrew Brimmer; thence running northerly sixty feet four inches, to said Robbins; thence running easterly by said Robbins, one hundred and eleven feet, to the southeast corner of the said Robbins, now occupied by Parker and Codman; thence running southerly fifty feet seven inches, to the northeast corner of said Parker's store first mentioned, according to the plan hereto annexed.

The three lines in front of said lot as marked on said plan are intended as follows; viz., the inner one represents the present course of the fence in front of the premises; the middle or dotted line, the course of the fence as it stood at the time of removal of last brick building or meeting-house, and the outer one represents what we suppose to be the true bounds of Congress street as now laid out. And we authorize said Robbins in our name, but at his expense, to claim to the outer line, and also any other portion to which we have any right or title.

Dated August 2; acknowledged August 4; recorded October 11.

No. 14.

Libro 331, folio 113.

The Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, in consideration of ten dollars paid them, in addition to \$22,000 paid to Salem Monthly Meeting, by Edward H. Robbins, of

Boston, quitclaim deed of all their right, title and interest in the whole of the premises, in fee.

In witness whereof we, the subscribers, constituting the major part of the committee of said Yearly Meeting, called the Meeting for Sufferings, the whole number of said committee being fifty-four, have, pursuant to Statute of Massachusetts passed the 28th of 2d mo. (February) 1828, set their hands and seals this 9th day of the 8th mo. in the year of our Lord 1828.

Moses Brown, William Almy, John Wilbur, Royal Southwick, Rowland Greene, Rowland Rathborne, Nicholas Congdon, Thomas Anthony, Arnold Congdon, Stephen Gould, John Osborne, David Buffum, William Jenkins, Jonathan Dennis, David Buffum Jr., Benjamin Freeborn, John R. Davis, Abram Shearman Jr., Obadiah Davis, James Tucker, Cornelius Howland, Francis Taber, Estes Newhall, Daniel Johnson, Isaac Bassett Jr., Thomas Howland.

(And each a seal.)

Acknowledged at various dates; recorded October 11, 1828.

No. 15.

Libro 331, folio 115, September 1st, 1828.

Edward H. Robbins mortgaged back to William Almy, of Cranston, Rhode Island, treasurer of the Yearly Meeting, for \$14,000, for one year, for the benefit of the Yearly Meeting. This was assigned to Thomas H. Perkins, of Boston. (Libro 314, folio 52, October 1, 1829.)

No. 16.

Libro 331, folio 115.

Edward H. Robbins, of Boston, physician, in consideration of \$8,000 paid by the Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, does hereby give, grant, sell and convey unto the said Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, its successors and assigns, the certain parcels or tracts of land in said Boston, being lots twenty and twenty-one upon a plan at the end of book 290, bounded easterly by a new court now called Milton place, there measuring sixty feet seven and one half inches; northerly by east by land now or late of Joseph May, eighty-five feet five inches; westerly by north by land now or late of Isaac McLellan and others, thirty-nine feet four and one half inches; southerly by west in part by land now or late of Henry Hill, and in part by said new court, eighty-one feet four and one fourth inches: with the privilege and right of using said court and passage way leading to Federal street in common with other abutters for the usual purposes of ingress and egress, upon conditions, however, that no houses shall be erected upon the said land within the distance of ten feet from said court, conformably to the dotted line on said plan.

Same premises conveyed to me by Timothy Williams and Lewis Tappan (298, 289).

In fee, full warranty. Dower released.

E. H. ROBBINS JR. [SEAL]

LOUISA ANNE. [SEAL]

SUFFOLK SS. September 27, 1828.—Acknowledged before
BENJAMIN R. NICHOLS,

Justice of the Peace.

Recorded October 11, 1828.

Libro 866, folio 139.

The Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, a body corporate by law (February 28 1828), by its treasurer David Buffum, thereto duly authorized, and we, the subscribers, a majority of the committee of said Yearly Meeting called the Meeting for Sufferings (whole number being thirty-two), in consideration of \$10,275 paid by Isaac Rich, of Boston, convey to him in fee simple: easterly by Milton place, sixty feet seven and one half inches; northerly by land of the grantee, eighty feet five inches; westerly by land now or late of Isaac McLellan and others, thirty-nine feet four one half inches; southerly by land now or late of Henry Hill, and partly by Milton place, eighty-one feet four and one half inches.

Libro 331, folio 115.

The Yearly Meeting of Friends for New England, by

DAVID BUFFUM, [SEAL]

its Treasurer.

Samuel Boyd Tobey, Wm. C. Taber, David K. Akin, Gilbert Congdon, Chas. R. Tucker, Edward Earle, Joseph Cartland, Newell Hoxie, M. C. Pratt, Wm. A. Robinson, David Kelley, Stephen A. Chase, George Bowen, Lemuel Gifford, Nathan Breed, Samuel Boyce, David Buffum.

(And twenty-four seals.)

Dated, 7th mo. 8, 1865; several acknowledgements made by the treasurer.

Recorded October 20, 1865.

To this is attached a certified copy of the Minutes of the Yearly Meeting held at Newport, 6th mo. 16, 1857, attested by Samuel Boyd Tobey, clerk, that the treasurer was author-

ized to convey on request of the Meeting for Sufferings. And copies from records of the Meeting for Sufferings held at Lynn, 8th mo. 19, 1857, of a committee appointed at Providence, 2d mo. 1, 1865. Committee requested to proceed.

Newport, 6th mo. 10, 1865, report sold for \$10,275, \$1000 cash, the balance on delivery of deed, and the treasurer requested to convey.

David Buffum certified to be treasurer, and that number of committee is thirty-two, and a majority has executed.

SAMUEL BOYCE,
Clerk of said Meeting.

PROVIDENCE, 2d mo. 5th 1873.

In conclusion, the committee would state that they have used their best endeavors to collect the minutes of the Yearly Meeting and of the Meeting for Sufferings, relating to the concern of those meetings in establishing and supporting the different meeting-houses in Boston, and also whatever historical notices and deeds they could find on the same subject, which are embodied in the foregoing pages; and they would now ask to be released from further service in the case. Which is respectfully submitted.

NEWELL HOXIE.
WM. C. TABER.
GEO. HOWLAND, Jr.
CHAS. R. TUCKER.

A true copy,

Attest,

WM. O. NEWHALL,
Clerk of Representative Meeting.

LYNN, 4th mo., 1874.

